Protection of endangered birds and animals

†2676. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of endangered birds and animals including lions, tigers and elephants in reserve forests is declining every year;

(b) if so, the details of these animals and birds during the last three years; and

(c) the necessary action being taken by Government to protect these species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Fluctuation in the population of wild fauna and flora is a natural phenomenon. There are no specific reports indicating that the population of endangered wild animals like tiger, lions, elephants including birds are dwindling in the country. On the contrary, the population of lion and elephant has increased over the years. The details of the last all India Estimation of Tiger, carried out between 2006 and 2008 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Similarly, the details of the last all India enumeration of wild elephants in the country carried out in 2007-08 is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).Further, as per the estimation carried out in Gujarat in 2005, the total population of lions in the Gir forests is 359+10. However, no such countrywide population estimation has been carried out for birds.

(c) The steps taken by the Central Government for the protection of wildlife, *inter-alia*, include the following:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.

2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.

3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals.

4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

5. The State/UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.

6. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.

7. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme -'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', a new component has been added for initiating 'Recovery Programme for critically endangered species and their habitats' during the 11th Five Year plan period.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Population estimates of tigers

State	Tiger Numbers		
	No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex			
Uttarakhand	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	109	91	127
Bihar	10	7	13
Shivalik-Gangetic	297	259	335
Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex			
Andhra Pradesh	95	84	107
Chhattisgarh	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	300	236	364
Maharashtra	103	76	131
Orissa	45	37	53
Rajasthan	32	30	35
Jharkhand**		Not Assessed	
Central Indian	601	486	718
Western Ghats Landscape Complex			
Karnataka	290	241	339
Kerala	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	76	56	95
Western Ghats	402	336	487
North East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains			
Assam*	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	14	12	18
Mizoram*	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal*	10	8	12
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	100	84	118
Sunderbans		Not Assessed	
Total Tiger Population	1411	1165	1657

*Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

** Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100 km2.

Statement-II

Estimated population of wild elephants

Region	State	Elephant Population	
		2002	2007
North-East	Arunachal	1607	1690
	Assam	5246	5281
	Meghalaya	1868	1811
	Nagaland	145	152
	Mizoram	33	12
	Manipur	12	Nil
	Tripura	40	59
	West Bengal (North)	292	300-350
Total for North-East		9243	9305-9355
East	West Bengal (South)	36	25
	Jharkhand	772	624
	Orissa	1841	1862
	Chattisgarh	-	122
Total for East		2649	2633
North	Uttarakhand	1582	1346
	U.P.	85	380
Total for North		1667	1726
South	Tamilnadu	3052	3867
	Karnataka	5838	4035
	Kerala	3850	6068
	Andhra Pradesh	74	28
	Maharashtra	-	7
Total for South	.	12814	14005
Islands	Andaman & Nicobar	40	NA
Grand Total		26413	27669-27719

Killings of wild animals

2677. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: